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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 4

July - August



A family reunion. A birthday party. These events came together recently in celebration of 100 years of the Alta Ranger Station.

While some folks concede that the Alta Ranger Station MAY be the first ranger station in the Forest Service, there was no doubt on July 4 of this year when the 30 plus Wilkerson descendants and other guests gathered to celebrate. They KNEW that it was the first ranger station. The Wilkersons not only brought their history to the celebration, they brought their pride in the accomplishments of their uncle,



great uncle and great-great uncle.

It was on July 4, 1899, another celebration was held when Nathaniel "Than" Wilkerson and Henry Tuttle completed the Alta Ranger Station. Given the appropriateness of the day, they raised the American flag over the cabin. Than and Henry didn't have to worry about appro-

priations, FFIS or other budget processes, because they paid for the cabin and flag themselves.

Some years later, it was discovered the cabin had been built on a mining claim, and for all intents and purposes it was abandoned by the government.

In 1941, the Hamilton Lion's Club purchased the property and donated it back to the Forest Service. In 1974, the cabin was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cabin was sporting its birthday present at the gathering—a new sod roof, thanks to the Trapper Creek Job Corps. It was a festive party, complete with cake and lemonade from the job corps and the raising of a 45-star flag.

*Alta Ranger Station then and now.
Picture above left taken in 1899.
Than Wilkerson (left) and Henry Tuttle (right).*

*Below left, left to right: Ron and Sid Wilkerson,
descendants of Than at July 4th birthday
party.*

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Highlighted in national magazines, 100-mile trail opens in North Dakota.

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After 54 years, former German POW returns to his place of internment on IPNF.

Tips on Savings.....page 7

Want to save \$20,000 in printing costs for EIS's? Here's how!

The Fall of a Giant

by Blake Ballard, acting district ranger
Palouse Ranger District,
Clearwater National Forest

*Over 600 years old, a
record western white pine
in R-1 dies,
victim of disease.*

The largest recorded western white pine tree in Idaho was located on the Palouse Ranger District—until early May, that is. It was the principal feature and the namesake of the Giant White Pine Campground.

Located on a beautiful flat next to a creek, the giant stood with western red cedar, Douglas-fir, grand fir, hemlock and an occasional ponderosa pine or lodgepole pine. The area, with its old-growth timber, was recognized for its unique scenic beauty.

The giant white pine was 214 feet tall. It had a trunk diameter of 81.8 inches and was estimated to be over 400 years old.

In the summer of 1998, only a few live needles remained on the tree. Soon, they turned red and eventually fell, the final confirmation that the tree was dead. The health of the tree had been declining for many years from attack by a fungus. It finally succumbed to attack from a tiny insect, the mountain pine beetle.

The chain of events that ultimately led to the death of the record tree actually began in 1910 when a disease was accidentally introduced into North America from Europe. This disease, commonly known as white pine blister rust, was brought into Canada from infected white pine seedlings shipped from France.

When exactly the giant was infected is not known. The infection weakened the tree so that it could no longer ward off the efforts of the insects.

Dozens of people gathered at the Giant White Pine Campground to witness the falling of the giant. Foresters, loggers, reporters, photographers, law enforcement officers, highway department personnel and others came to pay their respect.



Logger Duane Larson fell the estimated 600-year-old giant white pine. It finally succumbed to white pine blister rust and mountain pine beetle. photo by Blake Ballard

With a crash that shattered the rotten base of the tree, the title of "Idaho State Record Western White Pine Tree" passed to a slightly taller but slightly smaller diameter tree in the Floodwood State Forest, 40 miles away.

The giant fell across a Forest Service trail. The trail will now pass through the notch created by removal of a section of the tree sliced into "cookies" to be used for interpretation. A ring count was taken from one of the cookies. The count totaled 575 years. By estimating the years it took for the tree to grow from the ground level to the level of the cookies, foresters are confident that the tree was well over 600 years old.

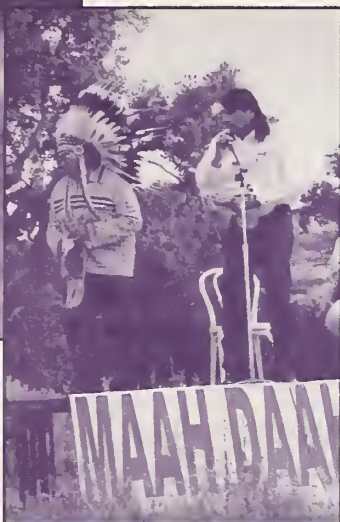


Maah Daah Hey Trail Opens for Business

*"The Maah Daah Hey Trail
is going to change
the face of western
North Dakota."*



Mile marker "0" marks the start of the Maah Daah Hey Trail.



Members of the Three Affiliated Tribes participate in a traditional blessing of the Maah Daah Hey Trail.



Participants in the Maah Daah Hey Trail dedication place milepost "0". From left to right: Sam Redfern, Lolo NE; Jennifer Lamb, International Mountain Bicycling Assoc.; Larry Dawson, Dakota Grasslands supervisor; Noel Doe, NPS; Doug Prchal, ND Parks & Rec. Dept.; Ole Goldberg, Mayor of Medora, ND; and Curt Glasoe, Dakota Grasslands.

by Scott Fitzwilliams, Medora district ranger
Dakota Prairie Grasslands

What started as a dream 15 years ago became a reality on July 19. On the banks of the Little Missouri River, with the North Dakota Badlands as a backdrop, the Maah Daah Hey Trail was dedicated and officially opened for business on the Little Missouri National Grassland.

The grand opening ceremony gathered the partners and volunteers who made the 100-mile trail possible for a celebration of a trail that is quickly becoming a popular destination point in North Dakota.

For years, North Dakotans have had to load up hiking gear, mountain bikes, and horse trailers to travel Interstate 94 in search of adventure vacations in the Rocky Mountains. The Maah Daah Hey Trail now offers non-motorized recreationists the same opportunities - all within a days drive for most State residents.

The trail gets its name from the Mandan Indians who once roamed these parts. Maah Daah Hey means "grandfatherly"

or "be here long." One of the highlights of the ceremony was a traditional native blessing of the trail by tribal elders from the Three Affiliated Tribes.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the trail's history is the wonderful partnerships it has brought together. "If it not for the North Dakota State Parks and Recreation Department and the help of private citizens, we would not be here today," said Dakota Prairie Grassland trail coordinator Russ Walsh. He added that the partners will help make yearly maintenance possible too. "This year we secured over \$35,000 in partnership funds for the construction and maintenance of the trails. It also looks promising to receive similar matching funds over the next couple years."

Over the next few years, six overnight campsites are planned for the trail in addition to several loop trails. As one of the participants at the grand opening said, "The Maah Daah Hey Trail is going to change the face of western North Dakota."

The trail's notoriety has exceeded everyone's expectations. Dozens of newspaper articles, television news series, and several national and regional magazines have highlighted the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Northwest Airlines "World Traveler" magazine July 1999 issue, has an extensive article on the North Dakota Badlands and the Maah Daah Hey Trail. ESPN's Cannon's Photo Safari is planning to do a show on the trail. Mountain Bike Action magazine named the Maah Daah Hey Trail as one of the "top ten places every mountain biker should visit." And the North Dakota Tourism Department is making the Maah Daah Hey Trail a focal point of their marketing efforts in 2000.

Dakota Prairie Grasslands Update



by Steve Williams, public affairs officer
Dakota Prairie Grasslands

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is working feverishly to be "up and running" as a unit by the end of September. It looks like everything is on track.

The grassland supervisor's office has now moved into their new office at 240 W. Century Avenue in Bismarck. Computers and phones have been installed and await the arrival of the new employees.

Thus far, five new employees have reported for work in Bismarck, and nine more have accepted positions. Work continues to fill the last remaining position in the new office. Supervisor Dawson said, "It is now a race to see whether the employees or the furniture get here first."

Regardless of which arrives first, Dawson feels he has the beginnings of a first class organization. "It would not have been possible to accomplish this task without the help of many people throughout the region," Dawson said, "and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their help in getting the new unit off to an auspicious start."

Customer Service Corner

Return to Minton Peak Lookout - 50 years later



by Diana Enright-Bawden,
public information technician
Kootenai National Forest

Left: Minton Peak Lookout,
Cabinet Ranger District,
Kootenai NF.

A 73-year-old Mississippi couple traveled cross country to arrive in Trout Creek July 19. They were celebrating an anniversary. It was 50 years ago when they both worked as fire lookouts on the Minton Peak Lookout. In 1949, Joe and Wanda Lee Corley, along with their 2 1/2-year-old son Chuck staffed the lookout for the summer. At the time, Joe was a forestry student at West Virginia University and Wanda Lee was an admitted "city girl" who didn't really know how to cook, especially not on a wood stove.

Besides earning \$1,000 that summer (Joe working 5 days a week and Wanda Lee working 2 days), the Corleys learned a great deal about life in Montana. For one thing, they had to figure out how to keep the porcu-

pine from eating the tires on their car. They drove the vehicle into two ruts made by previous lookouts and covered the tires with rocks. The strategy worked well until the night they forgot the rocks.

Bob Gregson was the Trout Creek District Ranger in 1949. Wanda Lee remembers well her weekly trips to Trout Creek for groceries, and her visit to the ranger station to enjoy the luxury of warm water. None of the station's buildings stand today.

Fortunately Minton Peak Lookout still remains. Wanda and Joe toured the structure for the first time in 50 years, courtesy of a former ranger Jim Mershon. On his first official day of retirement, Jim happened by during the Corley's visit to the Cabinet Ranger District and offered to take them to Minton Peak.

Former POW Goes Back in Time

by David "Norgy" Asleson, assistant district ranger
Priest Lake Ranger District, IPNF



left: l to r: Norgy Asleson, Helmut Pitterman, and Helmut Lukas at location of old buildings at Pelke POW camp.
Below: German internees at Pelke POW camp, 1944. Helmut, out with an injury, was not included in the photo.



"I can't believe I'm here after 54 years...and it's as beautiful now as it was then," reminisced Helmut Pitterman of Herne, Germany, as his tear-filled eyes scanned the horizon from the site of the former POW camp. "I so wanted my wife to see this special place—the beautiful country, lakes, mountains, and smell the fresh air and pine tree aroma."

He had planned to make this trip back to Priest Lake with his wife for several years, but she died this past winter. Helmut was in his early 20s when he became a prisoner of war during World War II. His ship was sailing between Japan and Bordeaux, France, in 1942 when it was captured by American naval forces in the middle of the Atlantic.

Helmut and his crewmates were brought to America. In the spring of 1944, he and other German prisoners were taken by train to the Kaniksu National Forest and then sent to the Pelke POW camp located along the Upper West Branch of Priest River, approximately 30 miles north of Priest River, Idaho. It had been built in the 1930's for use as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp.

To find the site, Herr Pitterman went to the Priest Lake Ranger Station with his photographs of the camp and was helped by Gary Weber, Camilla Cary, and David "Norgy" Asleson. Asleson took him to the former camp upon recognizing the skyline on Helmut's photographs. Helmut found that little remained except for concrete footings where the barracks had been located.

From 1944 until their return to Germany in 1946, the crew completed a variety of work projects largely on the former Falls Ranger District of the Kaniksu. Each man was paid 60 cents an hour. In the winter they felled dead trees from the Gleason Mountain Fire of 1939. Helmut still wears a large scar on his knee from an accident with a crosscut saw. They also were dispatched to fires around the Pacific Northwest.

In the spring, the men would plant trees. Helmut's least favorite job was pulling *Ribes* as a white pine blister rust control measure. Each week the crew was hauled in a flatbed truck to nearby Newport, Washington, where they could shop or go have a beer.

It was an important journey for Helmut. As he said when he left, "I have so many memories of this place! Auf Wiedersehen...again."

Reinventing the Timber Sale

by Allen Rowley,
public affairs specialist
Flathead National Forest



Interesting concept. Revolutionary in some ways. Designing a timber cut where the end object is not removing the most timber volume but in coming up with a consensus on what kind of work needs to be done.

That is the heart of stewardship contracting and the Cedar Flats Demonstration Project on the Glacier View Ranger District. Work got under way this past winter and will continue over the summer. The Cedar Flats project was selected as one of nine national reinvention pilots initiated in 1997. These pilots were designed to test methods of accomplishing vegetation management and timber harvesting beyond the existing timber sale contracts we traditionally use.

The project revolves around commercial thinning of 70-year old lodgepole pine stands that also have varying amounts of Douglas fir and western larch. But the real reason behind the project is not the commercial thinning, but in the process used to write the prescriptions and thinning treatments and the contract specifications for work to be done, and in the selection of the contractor to do the work.

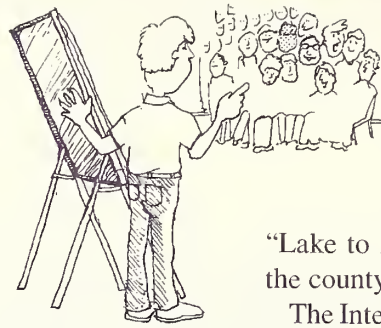
Representatives of the local public helped prepare the desired future condition for the stands to be treated. This same group then designed a conventional timber sale to meet the desired future conditions. They worked with contracting specialists on the forest to request proposals from contractors on their ideas to best meet the desired future condition. Loggers were hired under a service contract to do the commercial thinning. Their motivation was to do the best job of meeting the desired future condition for the stand—not removing the most timber volume.

The last commercial thinning on the project will be carried out this summer. We expect this may be the most visited and talked about logging site in R-1 this summer as others wrestle with stewardship contracting on their unit.

For more details on stewardship contracting, explore: www.fs.fed.us/r1/ and click on "Land Stewardship Contracting Program."

Hitting Home on Fire Prevention

by Gordon LiCon, district fire prevention officer
Sandpoint Ranger District, IPNF



The fire prevention program on the Sandpoint Ranger District, IPNF, has been in full swing since early summer with visits to all the public and private schools in Bonner County, Idaho.

The Sandpoint area has seen an increase in person-caused fires in recent years and an ever-increasing population growth in the wildland urban interface. This year's goal with is to educate and

motivate the public to actively aid in the prevention of person-caused wildfires.

The district joined with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to take action.

Over 300 fire prevention packets were distributed to all the the sixth grade classes and at local events. Smokey, always popular with young and old alike, has made several appearances, with more planned. A hit at the July 4th parade, Smokey started the race at the

"Lake to Forest Triathlon" and was at the county fair and rodeo.

The Interagency Prevention Team visited private businesses and organizations as well to spread the word of fire safety. They have also invited the public to call on the team for home wildland fire risk assessments.

The team consists of the district's Don Coggeshall and Gordon LiCon, along with the IDL's David Dodge. They have pulled out all the stops to get the message out on fire safety in the woods and at home.

Preparing for the Worst...

by Dellora Gauger, writer/editor, Fortine
Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest

A systematic way of protecting a population from fire, flood or chemical spill.

Firefighting is a learned skill, but so is evacuation of people in a disaster situation. While wildland firefighters do not fight structure fires, they are called upon to assist with the protection and evacuation of residents.

For two days in April, Incident Management Teams (IMT) of western Montana and a broad array of other agency personnel took a crash course in population protection. Private contractors Mike McMeekin and Bruce Suenram presented the PopPro Plan, the first of its kind in the nation. It is a systematic way of protecting a population from threats such as fire, flood, or chemical spill.

Suenram's experience as the Montana State Fire Marshall and now owner of Fire Logistics, Inc., showed as he helped

students understand the legal authorities IMTs have and how to identify the key contacts prior to implementation of a PopPro Plan. McMeekin, creator of the plan, was formerly with the Missoula County Sheriff's Office.

One key to the success of the plan is the integration of other agency people. Members of the BIA, Lake and Mineral County Sheriffs Department, Depart-

*"IMTs in western Montana
will be better trained
to handle
urban interface situations."*

ment of Emergency Services Coordinators, and the Flathead County Deputy DES Coordinator participated in the exercises and discussions. In addition, the

Salish/Kootenai was represented by Tribal Police and Emergency Services Coordinator and other tribal members.

With this training, IMTs in western Montana will be better trained to handle urban interface situations. Another benefit is the improved relationships between team members and agency personnel. One DES coordinator told the group in the closing remarks, "I didn't understand all you folks have to consider when you come to a fire. I know now I should just let you do your jobs the way you see best."

The organizers of the training, Bill Swope, with the Flathead National Forest, and Steve Gauger, with the Kootenai National Forest, agree. Both say that "PopPro is an excellent tool for pre-planning in any emergency, one that will help ensure firefighters and public safety."

Potential Life-Saving Seasonals

by Mary Bell Lunsford, public affairs officer
Custer National Forest

The Beartooth District of the Custer National Forest spent a full day instructing permanent and seasonal employees on first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). This training was held in the field during a week-long orientation and training.

Splinting and bandaging were taught using only what an employee would have with them while working in the backcountry at recreation sites or on fires. This included utilizing tree branches, clothing and other outdoor equipment as first aid supplies. As District Ranger Rand Herzberg said during the day, "Safety First" and that means being prepared."



Participants concentrate on applying the correct CPR techniques with the help of mannequins.

by Jay Gore,
national grizzly bear habitat coordinator

You could have the chance to see predators in action. And have the opportunity to explore first hand the relationship between carnivores and humans. Some 30 folks did that recently as part of a People, Economics and Forest Carnivore Management Class sponsored by the Northern Region in early June. They were witnesses to the pageant of America's Serengeti—Yellowstone National Park.

The course offered managers and biologists in Regions 1, 2, 4, and 6 the chance to interact with specialists from the

Understanding the Carnivore

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal and State highway transportation agencies, attorneys, economists, wildlife researchers, and others. Students shared an un-

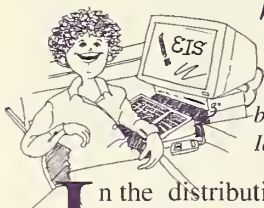


Photo courtesy Center for Wildlife

derstanding of grizzlies, wolves, lynx, wolverines, and other forest carnivore biology. They explored the predators' role in natural ecosystems, and social economic implications in a classroom and outdoor environment in the Lamar Valley.

Elaine Zeiroth, Bonner's Ferry District Ranger, said that this learning experience was one of the most rewarding opportunities in her career.

The class will be offered again the first week of June 2000. Make your reservation early in the year as classroom space is limited. Contact program coordinators, Jim Claar (406-329-3664) or Jay Gore (406-329-3288) in early 2000.



Tips on BIG Savings...

by Margaret Bro, computer specialist
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Using Technology

In the distribution of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Douglas-fir Beetle project, about \$20,000 in savings were realized using CD-ROM's and the internet, in lieu of paper copies.

The mailing of the Draft EIS for the Douglas-fir Beetle Project was extremely expensive. In order to reduce costs and improve service to the public, we incorporated alternative methods to the traditional mailing of hardcopy documents to everyone on the mailing lists.

Information systems acquired technical approval to purchase the software and hardware needed to create CD-ROM's in-house. The software produces a

document that can be viewed by any computer system. The hardware creates the CD that can be read by any PC equipped with a CD-ROM. The \$600 system can be used by the forest for similar future projects.

Questionnaires were sent to the public asking for their preferred way of receiving the 1200-page final EIS. Choices were: hardcopy by mail (cost: \$70 per copy); CD ROM (\$4.50); forest website (\$0). Of the 575 responses, 150 chose the CD-ROM and 100 chose our forest website. This represents a savings of \$10,000 for those electing to receive the CD's, plus \$7,000 for those visiting the web site and additional savings for final EIS's that might have been mailed to those

not interested in reviewing the document.

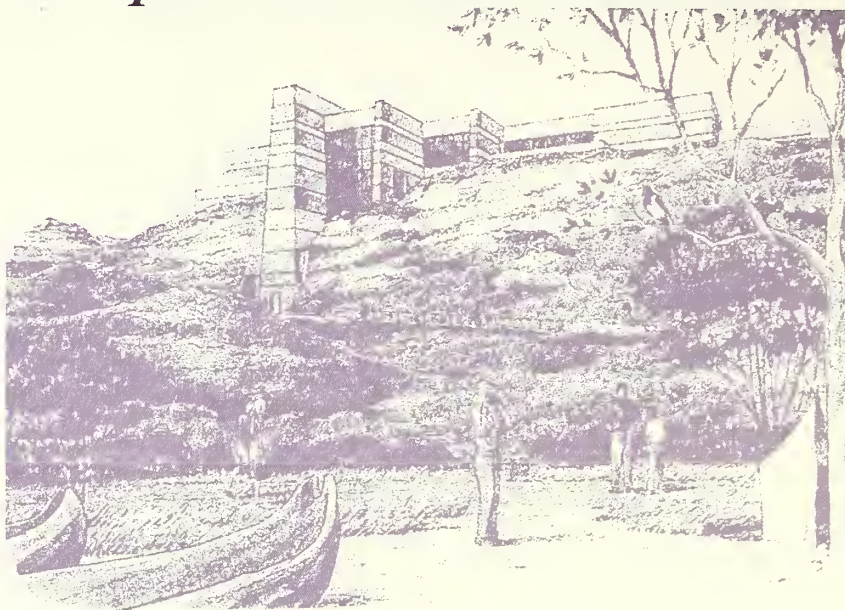
The electronic document is linked for easy navigation, words or phrases are easily found using the many search options, and the maps respond to the zoom feature for viewing finer detail at any location. The forest has been commended by the public for the efficient way the internet copy may be navigated.

Creating the CD in-house did not interrupt the workflow that was so critical in meeting the target date, and the investments made in hardware and software will be utilized for future projects. We are excited about the improved service we can offer the public.

from the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

articles by Paul Lloyd-Davies, partnership coordinator
Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

Interpretive Center Draws Huge Crowds



Strong visitation over the July 4th weekend pushed visitation at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls to almost 121,000 since the center opened in May 1998. Visitors have come from all over the world. Half of foreign visitors so far have been Canadians.

Lewis and Clark is always something I'd wanted to know more about," said Peter Crandall of Melbourne, Australia, who stopped after visiting a Canadian friend who had visited the Center and urged Crandall to stop.

Every fourth grader and seventh grader in the Great Falls public school system has

visited the center. During the 1998-99 school year, more than 6,400 students visited through the center's education program and hundreds more came outside the program, some from as far away as Sun Valley, Idaho.

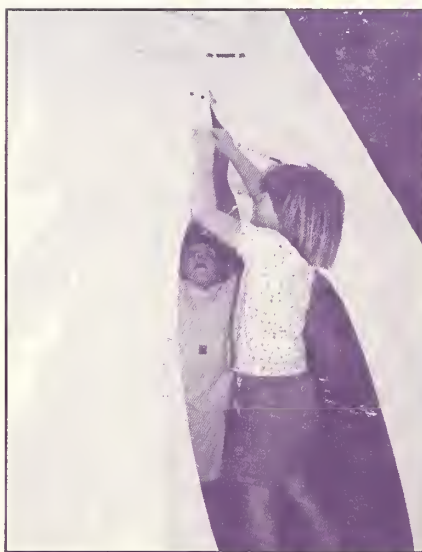
River Camp Opens

Visitors can experience history first hand at the River Camp living history area, which opened July 18. Interpreters such as Joella Sunchild, who is Chippewa-Cree, discuss shelters people used during the Lewis and Clark era and demonstrate tipi raising. Visitors participate in the tipi raising, which makes the history even more personal and real.

On a late July afternoon, sisters Katie Smith, 3, and Kelsey Smith, 5, of Great Falls were at River Camp with their father, Grant Smith. When the center opened, Smith thought one visit would be all that would hold the girls's interest.

Not so. "We usually run over here once a month. The girls really enjoy it," Smith said as the girls closed the door of a tipi.

More topics, including hide preparation, will be added to the activities at River



Sisters Katie Smith, 3, and Kelsey Smith, 5, of Great Falls learn how to close the door of a tipi in the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center's River Camp. Photo by Paul Lloyd-Davies.

Camp, said interpretive services specialist Sue Buchel. "Starting slowly, we will have one demonstration up and running before beginning a second. Later this summer, we will start demonstrating hide preparation."

How long and how many of these special outdoor activities will continue throughout the summer and early fall has not as yet been determined.

Native American Games

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center will bring public attention to the renewed interest in traditional Native American games with an exhibit that will run from August 7- November 7.

Developed by the Oklahoma Natural History Museum, the exhibit allows visitors to explore old and new games of Indians across North America through photographs, artifacts and art. Center staff will also use the exhibit to highlight the games of the Old World and New World during the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

An Arbor Day to Write Home About

by Suzanne Lay, Potlatch-Onaway Tree
Committee Chair, Clearwater National Forest

While many of you were huddled around a warm cup of coffee the morning of April 9, the Potlatch-Onaway Tree Committee organized a tree planting effort that was worth writin' home about. More than 20 foresters and friends helped plant 655 trees in the middle of Potlatch, Idaho, in Scenic Six Park. That's a LOT of trees.

It was an amazing community effort. Potlatch Elementary School's 4th, 5th, and 6th-graders were planting, mulching and matting. Bennett Lumber Company donated and delivered bark mulch. Potlatch Corporation donated 400 hybrid

poplar seedlings.

The Forest Service came across with 150 ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas-fir seedlings. And 44 flowering crabapples, quaking aspen, oaks, ash, maple, willows and purple locusts were purchased with grant money from the Idaho Dept. of Lands Community Forestry Program in cooperation with the Forest Service. Hash Tree Company donated 11 larger conifers. Fiddlers Ridge Nursery gave several beautiful trees and lots of valuable advice. Plummer and Wagner donated the stakes to keep trees upright while the roots get established. The City

of Potlatch provided a backhoe for moving some of the larger trees.

A lot of people from the town got their hands dirty—including Palouse District Ranger Carmine Lockwood and forester John Stuvland.

It was incredible, but it's just the beginning. We're going to do more next year. You can all do your part by explaining to children how important trees are. Have them "adopt a tree" of their own and watch it grow. Thanks to all who helped this year. Green side up!

Why a Sturgeon Has Whiskers

by Laura Katzman, fisheries biologist
Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai
National Forest

The Three Rivers Ranger District didn't let National Fishing Week (June 5-13) go by without a celebration and offering a learning experience for kids. All the K-6 grades in and around Troy, Montana, were visited by district fisheries biologists Shane Jones and Laura Katzman. They gave the youngsters an understanding of some of the native and introduced fish in the area and their unique features. They answered the intriguing question of why a sturgeon has whisker-like barbels and bony scutes for armor!

The visits kicked off a poster/essay contest and Fishing Derby. The theme of the poster/essay contest was "My Favorite Fish" and kids drew pictures of many kinds of fish ranging from white sturgeon to bull trout to sharks. Winners received movie passes, pizzas, cones, drinks, or fishing gear from local businesses.

The Kid's Fishing Derby held at the Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club on June 6 attracted 76 participants. The event was coordinated by the Three Rivers Ranger District, Mon-

tana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and the Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club. Activities included gyo-taku (fish printing), fish identification, fly-tying, amphibian and macroinvertebrate display with live specimens, casting and fishing contests. Local fishing experts took kids fishing in boats on the lake. The biggest fish caught was a 1 lb 5 oz large mouth bass, the smallest fish were larval fish, and the most variety caught by one angler included peamouth, yellow perch, and largemouth bass.



Making a Connection with Intertribal Youth

by Tom Sandberg, North Zone archaeologist, IPNF

Youth camps take a lot of time, work and resources to organize, but what a great way to communicate with young people about nature and land stewardship. That's why the Idaho Panhandle, Clearwater, and Nez Perce National Forests have co-sponsored an Intertribal Natural Resources Youth Camp for 12 years.

A total of 16 teenagers recruited by the Nez Perce Tribe and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho attended this year's camp, held June 21-26. There was tremendous support provided by the Bonners Ferry and Sandpoint ranger districts, Kootenai Tribe, Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, and the Boundary Volunteer Ambulance. It was also helpful to have R-6's Colville National Forest participate.

The camp is somewhat unique in offering both education and work projects. For

example the kids were given the opportunity to learn about migratory birds but were also expected to help with loon platform construction.

Activities outside work and education times included such things as canoeing, sweat lodge, basket making and archeology presentations by Kootenai Tribal members. After hearing complaints of "not enough fry bread," the cooks decided to teach us how and have each cook as much fry bread as desired. That ended the complaining and it was fun.

The 1999 camp was remarkable for other reasons. Two of the campers were offered employment by the district trails and recreation coordinator. This was extraordinary. One individual happened to be the only girl camper this year as well as the one chosen by the camp leaders as best overall. This distinction goes to the



Teens dig postholes for duck hunting blind in Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge.

individual who does well on work projects, participates in all other activities, is helpful, shows respect and generally has a good attitude. The other job offer went to a camper who has attended each camp since 1994.

The camp ended differently this year. On Saturday morning, after breaking camp, the group was treated to a buffet breakfast by the Kootenai Tribe at the Kootenai River Inn. It's a good feeling to think that at the end of each camp, it was the best ever—and that's the way it was.

Sharing Our Mission with Children

by Sandi McFarland, archaeologist, and Roberta Morin, reality specialist
Clearwater National Forest

What better way to communicate information to children on the natural world than with a three-day, two-night camp experience. Every year the Clearwater National Forest, with its partners, presents this opportunity to graduating sixth graders in Clearwater County. This year the camp was held July 6-8 near Headquarters, Idaho. More than 3300 students have attended the tour over the last 37 years; 70 sixth graders participated this year.

Partners on the project include the county extension office, Idaho State Department of Lands, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, the Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association, the school district, the timber industry, and local service organizations.

Sandi McFarland represented the Forest Service on the planning committee and organized events. Other Clearwater employees Peggy Corder and Bill Kessel helped with shuttling gear to and from the campsite. Peggy, who helps every year, is a veteran in another way: she was a student at the camp 35 years ago herself. Fish biologist Karen Smith provided instruction on insect life; foresters Clare Brick and Mark Klinke talked about trees; and recreation tech Kris Perry instructed the youngsters how to be "light-on-the-land."

Sandi, an archaeologist; John Case, a forester; and Roberta Morin who works in Lands showed tools used in various resource careers and tested their recall in a game called "Tools of the Trade." Kolleen Shelley, who is the national Forest Ser-



Mark Klinke, Clearwater NF culturist, with 6th graders.

vice remote automated weather station coordinator, and her assistant Linnea Keating explained about weather stations and how they worked.

The commitment from the instructors is obvious. "I was on this same tour 25 years ago," Kolleen stated, "and I recognized a couple of teachers who were still doing the tour." Kolleen went on to remark, "The kids at the camp are very sophisticated and understand way more than I did at their age. They asked good questions and wanted to know detailed information," sure signs of the success of the program.



Kristen Ackerman with the winning fish!

Fishing Derby Attracts 138 Youngsters

*by Perry Edwards, extravaganza chairperson
Nez Perce National Forest*

A total of 138 children up to age 12 enjoyed a fun-filled day of fishing and environmental education June 12 at Wilkins' Pond, 6 miles southwest of Grangeville. The day was organized as part of National Fishing Week.

The Tenth Annual Fishing Extravaganza was organized by the Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, along with the Cottonwood, Idaho, office of the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Fish & Game, and the Jeff Wilkins family of Grangeville. The Sunrise Lion's Club provided free hot dogs and soda pop.

The weather was ideal for enjoyable fishing: sunny and warm. Fish were biting! Children brought in 50 fish to be measured in the competition. There were also educational games which taught about aquatic animals and their habitat. The kids also learned about water pollution and how to prevent it.

Awards were given in two separate age categories, ages up to 8 and ages 9-12. The winner in the youngest category was Ray Craig, 4 years old, who, with his 4-lb rainbow trout, caught the largest fish. The largest fish in the older category was caught by Kirsten Acherman, 9 years old, who reeled in a 5-lb rainbow trout. She will go on to compete in the national contest for a Tracker bass boat.

Dozens of prizes were given away to derby participants. A total of 23 local merchants joined in to support this popular event. This outreach program involving lots of community partners made for an exciting day for a lot of youngsters.

Fun, Smokey and Conservation Ed

*by Pam Buckmaster, information receptionist,
Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai
National Forest*

Smokey Bear had a very busy day May 5 in Troy, Montana. Smokey, along with Three Rivers Ranger District employees Linda Hubbell and Pam Buckmaster, spent most of six hours visiting grades K-6 at the Morrison Elementary School in Troy.

The youngsters learned about good fire versus bad fire and of course gave Smokey big hugs. The older children were given information on fire in the ecosystem and learned about fire fighting tools. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and, of course, everyone loved Smokey Bear.

At the end of the day, Pam and Linda had a great laugh watching Smokey crawl inside himself to get the vehicle keys left in his inside pants pockets.

Smokey also went out in April with two preschool groups from Troy and planted trees. It was pouring rain the day when district staff Jim Flannigan, Russ Gautreaux, Pam Buckmaster, as well as Plum Creek's Jerry Akin, took the kids to a planting unit seven miles west of the Three Rivers Ranger District.

The kids listened to a short description of how trees grow, then each stu-

dent put their tree in a hole dug for them and watched as the tree roots were covered. Each tree was marked by a stake with the child's first name and the year. After planting, the kids went back to the district for a snack and a visit from Smokey Bear. Hugs were shared and packets were handed out.

The second trip to the woods was with 20 children, led by district staff Russ Gautreaux, Jim Flannigan, and Larry Tosh. The weather was beautiful and everyone, including parent volunteers, planted a tree. Smokey



Smokey with class at Morrison Elementary School in Troy, MT.

came out of the woods and passed out packets to all the kids.

The activities showed the district's strong commitment to conservation education and to making it fun. The thank you notes and posters from the children expressing their appreciation hung in the front office at the Three Rivers District for several weeks.



Larry Tosh, Kootenai NF forestry tech, helps youngster put his name on the stake beside his newly planted tree.

Volunteer Hosts Receive Chief's Award

by Nora McCloskey-Bauer,
campground host coordinator
Kootenai National Forest

The Kootenai National Forest did it again! The 1999 Chief's Volunteers Program Awards went to **Hayden and Jane Glenn**, hosts at Pete Creek Campground, and **Bill and Mary Lafrance**, hosts at Big Therriault Campground.

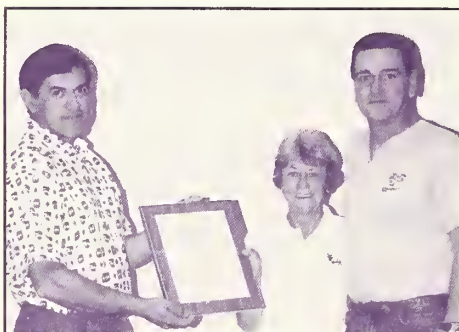
Hayden and Jane Glenn, from Alabama, have hosted on the Kootenai for seven years, winning the hearts of locals and visitors alike with their friendliness and southern charm.

Bill and Mary Lafrance, of Vermont, are spending their third summer on the Kootenai near the remote Ten Lakes Scenic Area. They love the northwest corner of Montana so much that when they leave in September they take part of the area with them—literally. In their possession are rulers, pencils, buttons, brochures and fresh Montana huckleberries. Last year they took their Smokey Bear handouts plus borrowed pictures, slides, and videos—and 200 huckleberry cookies, compliments of Mary—and gave seven school presentations on their experiences while hosting in Region One. "Uncle Bill"—or "Ranger Bill" as some call him—and "Aunt Mary" were a hit after their first class!

Rusty Trelford was also nominated for the Chief's Award. Although not selected, he did receive a Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance as a campground host, performing maintenance on seven district campgrounds, and for his work at Baldy Mountain Lookout.



Hayden and Jane Glenn (and forest friends).



Forest supervisor Bob Castaneda presenting Chief's Award to Bill and Mary Lafrance.



Forest supervisor presenting certificate of appreciation to Rusty Trelford.

25,000 Hours and Counting

by Dellora Gauger, public information assistant
Kootenai National Forest

The Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, recently reached a milestone in their safety program—250,000 hours of combined work without a chargeable accident.

The district began counting the hours in 1997. In August of 1998 they reached 150,000. The 250,000 milestone was reached in the spring of 1999.

What's behind this safety record? The district takes the attitude that "no job is so important that you have to compromise safety to get it done." The whole district is accountable if one employee has an accident.

The district safety program consists of two weekly morning safety briefings pre-

sented by field crews, weekly tailgate sessions and job hazard analyses (JHA) by individual crews, and monthly safety meetings for all employees. Seasonals and permanents alike are responsible for presentations at these meetings.

Fortine District Ranger Ed Monnig stresses, "Employees know the rewards of safety go beyond a jacket or cash. The biggest reward is that you are around another day, healthy and well and able to enjoy the important things in life!"

At the Fortine District, safety is the #1 priority and it shows as the hours continue to add up.

Regional Honor Awards

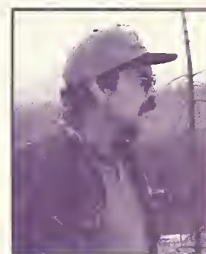
On June 17, Regional Forester Dale Bosworth announced the recipients of the 1998 Region 1 Regional Forester's Honor Awards, the most prestigious awards presented in the Northern Region. Among those selected for recognition include:

Equal Opportunity

Cliff Paradise, Flathead NF, for creating "one common voice" to address diversity issues and assisting R-1 to accomplish its diversity mission.

Personal & Professional Excellence

Ed Lieser, Tally Lake RD, Flathead NF, for unique and innovative ways of bringing people together to effectively participate in the stewardship of natural resources.



Ed Lieser



Kathy McCart

Kathleen McCart, Human Resources, RO, for preparing the Human Resources community for the 21st century through the use of technology.

Public Service

Jane Schmoyer-Weber and **Dale Gorman** (retired), Lewis & Clark NF, for excellence and leadership in designing, building, and operating the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in the true spirit of partnership.

Safety

Ken Kaufman, IPNF; **Bruce Crockett**, Engineering, RO; **Paul Fieldhouse**, Fire, Air, & Aviation, RO; and **Paul Chamberlin**,

Fire, Air, & Aviation, RO, for their work on a package of health and safety reference materials for identification of and solutions to unsafe working conditions in Forest Service facilities.

Ray TeSoro -

RMLH&W, RO, for being a leader in the area of minerals and geology safety, and for a commitment to employee safety and the ability to find workable solutions to workload and safety priorities.



Ray TeSoro

Creative Solutions to Safety Hazards

by Ann Baker, Regional Safety & Health Manager

Slips, trips, twists and falls have been our leading cause of personal injuries in Region One for years. This year, the Regional Safety and Health Leadership Team issued a June Challenge 1999, at the beginning of field season, to all R-1 employees to submit their ideas and solutions to prevent such injuries.

The entries were reviewed by team representatives at their quarterly meeting in July. The members were very impressed with the number and creativity of the responses from across the Region. The categories and winners were:

Most Participation: The following units were recognized for having the most number of subunits participating: Bitterroot NF (16 entries), Lolo NF (7 entries), Lewis and Clark NF (5 entries), Flathead NF (4 entries), and Aerial Fire Depot (3 entries).

Most Spirit: The Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, unanimously demonstrated having the most spirit and fun with the challenge.

Best Poem: The St. Joe Ranger District, IPNF, showed us their creative forces with the poem "Woods Walk," full of good advice on getting around safely in the woods.

Most Implementable Idea, Regionwide: The winners are the Superior Ranger District, Lolo NF, and the Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai NF.

Most Innovative and Creative: The Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, presented us with a variety of creative and innovative ideas to prevent injuries.

Cindy Enstrom was team leader for the June Challenge project. Elaine Zieroth, Ken Kaufman, and Paul Chamberlin served as team members.

All of the entries are posted on the R-1 health and safety web page.



l to r: Beth Paragamian, IPNF; Ed Lehman, president ID Wildlife Council; and Phil Cooper, ID Fish and Game..



l to r: fire ecologists Nancy McMurray, and Jane Kapler-Smith.



Flathead Forest Supervisor Kathy Barbouletos accepts primitive skills award from Regional Forester Dale Bosworth on behalf of the Hungry Horse RD.

Recognition Given at RLT Meeting

Among those recognized at the Regional Leadership Team meeting in Dillon, Montana, in April (certain awardees are featured in separate articles in this issue):

Bob Wintergerst, reclamation specialist, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, for his mine restoration and reclamation work; Regional Forester **Dale Bosworth** and Deputy Regional Forester **Kathy McAllister** for their assistance and leadership in achieving civil rights goals in R-1; RMLH&W Deputy Director **Maureen McBrien** for her work in the Chief's office to prepare WO staff for Congressional hearings; IPNF Forest Supervisor **Dave Wright** for his personal commitment for human and resource support for the national and regional fire program; to fire ecologists **Jane Kapler-Smith** and **Nancy McMurray**, of Rocky Mountain Research Station, Missoula, R-4 Conservation Education Award for development of outstanding educational materials in fire ecology; to Idaho Wildlife Council represented by IPNF Watchable Wildlife specialist **Beth Paragamian**, Idaho Wildlife Council president **Ed Lehman**, and education specialist **Phil Cooper**, ID Fish and Game Dept., R-1's Conservation Education Award for their partnership effort in the development of the Wildlife Education Facility in Coeur d'Alene; **Dale Bosworth** for his leadership in support of partnerships; Regional Primitive Skills Award '97 - '98 award to **Hungry Horse Ranger District**, Flathead NF for the Big River Cribbing Project; RMLH&W Director's Excellence in Wilderness Management award to Beartooth Ranger District, Custer NF; and **Sandi Morris** and **Ben Munger**, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

Fire Leadership Awards Go to Bitterroot Rangers

by Dixie L. Dies, public affairs officer
Bitterroot National Forest

The first annual FIRE 21 awards were presented to three district rangers on the Bitterroot National Forest for their commitment for use of fire resource stewardship. They include Nan Christianson, Tom Wagner and Dave Campbell. Jerry Williams, director of Fire, Aviation and Air, presented the group award to recognize line officer commitment to the FIRE 21 principles of firefighter and public safety, restoration and sustainment of healthy ecosystems, integration with land management planning, and improvement of fire and aviation accountability.

Bitterroot Forest Supervisor Rodd Richardson said "It is quite an accomplish-

ment for the Bitterroot National Forest rangers to receive this award, but it was the contribution and commitment of all (Bitterroot National Forest) employees that made it possible."



to r: Nan Christianson, Jerry Williams, Dave Campbell. Absent is Tom Wagner. Photo by Dixie Dies

Hinman is Darby's Citizen of the Year

by Dixie L. Dies, public affairs officer
Bitterroot National Forest



Carol and Lenny Hinman at center with daughters Angela (l) and Carla (r).
Photo by Angela Hinman.

Bitterroot National Forest employee **Lenny Hinman** and his wife **Carol** were honored as Citizens of the Year for Darby, Montana.

"Lenny, a forestry technician at the Darby Ranger District, and Carol, Darby branch manager and assistant vice president of Farmer's State Bank, were honored for their 27 years of work to improve and give back to their community. Lenny and Carol were recognized for their community involvement with the Darby Vol-

unteer Fire Department, Hunter Safety classes, Darby Clubhouse, Darby Ambulance, Darby Civic Group, Marcus Daly Board of Directors and Darby Community Action Team, as well as helping out with Darby Fun Days and the Strawberry Festival.

Two other former Darby Ranger District employees, Tom Wagner and Bill Terrill, have also received the Darby Citizen of the Year award.

Contributing to the Community - Forest Service Employees in "Relay for Life"



On July 17 and 18, a total of 37 Forest Service employees and several family members and friends contributed time, money and energy to the annual Missoula County "Relay for Life." The Relay, one of 2,500 held across the country, is the premier fund-raising activity for the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Of the more than \$154,000 raised in Missoula, the RO Team (Relay Rangers),

led by team captain Olleke Rappe-Daniels, raised over \$4,300!

In the culmination of a month of fund raising, participants spent 24 hours walking the track at Big Sky High School, enjoying the many activities and participating in the celebration of life that occurred with well over 1000 other participants from the surrounding community.

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BRAGONJE, RENAE, rangeland management specialist, Butte RD, promotion, Uinta NF

CRANDALL, JUDY, forestry technician, SO, promotion

GILMAN, BOB, district ranger, Pintler RD, promotion

HARRINGTON, JAMES, forestry technician, Kootenai NF, promotion, forestry technician (AFMO), Pintler RD

JOHNSON, GEROGE, supervisory forester, Dillon RD, promotion

LUNCEFORD, SISSY, SSS, Pintler RD, promotion

WHITE, SYDNEY, computer specialist, Nezperce NF, promotion, SO

New Employees

LENTZ, SCOTT, fishery biologist, Wisdom RD, CC appointment

NOYES, REID, forestry technician (ECL), Jefferson RD, CC appointment

Reassignments & Transfers

HAMANN, JOHN, soil scientist, SO, reassignment, Caribou/Targhee NF

LEHFELDT, DENNIS, forestry technician (SJ), AFD Missoula, reassignment, forestry technician (FECL), Butte RD

SUZUKI, KAYE, range conservationist, D6, reinstatement, rangeland management specialist

TUSS, CHUCK, forestry technician, Pintler RD, promotion, range technician, BLM

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

CORNELISSE, JACK, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, promotion

FLOCH, RICK, district ranger, Darby RD, performance award

GRANT, ROY, supervisory civil engineer, SO, quality step increase

LOVEJOY, STU, supervisory forester, Sula RD, performance award

RITTER, DAN, biological scientist, Darby RD, performance award

STANICH, CHUCK, forestry technician, SO, promotion

STEVENSON, SHAWNA, nurse, Anaconda JCC, promotion

New Employees

KING, BRIAN, social services assistant, Trapper JCC

MCDONALD, CONNIE, social services assistant, Trapper JCC

THEISEN, JEFF, social services assistant, Trapper JCC

Reassignments & Transfers

HAMMEL, BONNIE, community health nurse, Trapper Creek JCC, transferred, occupational health nurse, National Oceanic & Atmospheric

Reinstatements

DEVINE, DIANE, personnel clerk, SO

Resignations

MENK, KAY, office automation assistant, Trapper Creek JCC

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

ARSENA, LORINDA, hydrological technician, Clearwater Supervisor Office, reassignment
 BRINKMAN, DEAN, civil engineer, Anchorage AK, transfer—promotion
 MCMICHAEL, CONNIE, electronic technician, Clearwater/Nez Perce zone, transfer in from DOD
 SCOTT, MICHAEL, forestry technician (rec), Powell RD, promotion
 JONES, JASON, supervisory forestry technician, North Fork RD, conv to CC appt
 RUKLIC, KAREN, bma, Powell RD, convert to CC appt
 HARLOW, DIANE, oac, Powell RD, convert to CC appt

DAKOTA PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS**Awards & Promotions**

GENTRY, CHARLENE, NEPA coordinator, SO, promotion
 THOMPSON, SPIKE, district ranger, McKenzie RD, promotion

New Employees

DISERLY, MICKI, office automation clerk, SO
 LENNICK, SANDRA, budget analyst, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

BETZ, Charles, AO, from Blackwell J.C. to SO
 ROSS, SHARON, soil scientist, from Blackwell J.C. to SO
 SJURSEN, PHIL, GIS specialist, from McKenzie RD to SO, reassignment

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

KIMBALL, FROME, computer specialist, Kootenai NF, promotion, SO
 MARTELL, STEVE, forestry technician, FEG, promotion
 ROVA, TIMO, forestry technician (SJ), Hebgen Lake RD, promotion, Superior NF
 WETZEL, CHARLES, forestry technician, (SJ), promotion
 WYTANIS, MARGE, BMC, D1, temporary promotion, forestry technician, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF

New Employees

KAUFMAN, KATHRYN, student trainee (Engineering), SO

Resignations

CLOW, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, resignation

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

HAMLEN, MARC, forestry technician, Townsend RD, promotion
 MCKENNA, CHARLES, civil engineer, SO, promotion
 REISS, JEANNINE, budget & accounting officer, SO, promotion

New Employees

GREIFF, CHERI, personnel clerk, SO
 LUNDBERG, RENEE, forester, Lincoln RD

Retirements

GILBERT, SAM, forester, retired

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS**Awards & Promotions**

ASLESON, TERESA, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, promotion
 BALL, TOM, district ranger, Sandpoint RD, temp. promotion
 CHRISMAN, ALLEN, district ranger, Coeur d'Alene RD, temp. promotion
 DOCHERTY, RACHEL, supervisory forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, temp. promotion
 GUNTER, DONALD, forester, Bonners Ferry RD, promotion
 HOWLETT, GERALDINE, forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD, temp. promotion
 KLARICH, ROBERT, forester, Bonners Ferry RD, promotion
 LUX, DAVID, forester, Bonner Ferry RD, temp. promotion
 MACY, JOHN, hydrologist, Black Hill NF, promotion, St. Joe RD
 ODEGAARD, EDWIN, forestry technician, St. Joe RD, promotion
 PARKER, WILL, lead forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD, promotion
 SCHAIBLE, FELICIANA, resource assistant., IPNF, SO, temp. promotion
 SCHEEL, DESTROY, supervisory forestry technician, St. Joe RD, temp. promotion
 SHIPPE Jr., JOHN, lead forestry technician, Coeur d'Alene RD, temp. promotion
 STOCK, JOYCE, supervisory forester, Coeur d'Alene RD, promotion
 TYMRAK, VICKI, supervisory forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, temp. promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

SAVAGE, CHRIS, hydrologist, Ashley NF, reassignment, Sandpoint RD

New Employees

ASSED, DESIREE, business management clerk, St. Joe RD, new employee
 GORE, SANDRA, business management clerk, St. Joe RD, new employee
 HUNTLEY, JAMES, office automation clerk, Sandpoint RD, new employee
 NEWTON, LONNIE, student trainee forestry, IPNF, SO, new employee
 PARISE, LYNN, office automation clerk, Priest Lake RD, new employee

Resignations & Retirements

LAVERDURE, MIKE, forestry technician, St. Joe RD, resignation

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

CHUTE, TERRY, biological scientist, Rexford RD, to district ranger, Libby RD, temporary promotion
 KOMAC, RON, wildlife biologist to biological scientist, Rexford RD, temporary promotion
 THATCHER, RON, civil engineer technician to supervisory civil engineer, Libby RD, temporary promotion

New Employees

JOHNSEN, STEVE, wildlife biologist, Cabinet RD

Reassignments & Transfers

GODDARD, KENNETH, supervisory civil engineer, Libby RD, to R4
 Sawtooth NF
 HIGGINS, BRUCE, forester, Libby RD, to R4 Fishlake NF
 MARTEN, LEANNE, district ranger, to R9
 Ottawa NF

Retirements

FLANNIGAN, JIM, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD
 FROBERG, LARRY, district ranger, Libby RD
 MERSHON, JIM, district ranger, Cabinet RD

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST**New Employees**

Silkwood, Jeff, student trainee geology, SO

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

BABB, ROY, engineering equipment operator helper, term appointment, SO
 BITTENBENDER, BRETT, lead forestry technician, smoke jumper, temporary promotion, Grangeville Air Center
 BLITON, DAN, forester silviculture, Elk City RD, promotion, Slate Creek RD
 BLOM, BRIDGET, support services specialist, temporary promotion, SO
 BORNIGER, RANDY, forestry technician recreation, temporary promotion, Elk City RD
 DOMAN, LAURIE, trails specialist, Clearwater RD, temporary promotion, SO
 DREADFULWATER, JOHN, automotive worker, Clearwater RD, promotion, SO
 GORMLEY, LILLY, forestry technician recreation, temporary promotion, Elk City RD
 GREEN, DAVID, operations resource analyst, promotion, SO
 KAVALOK, KATHLEEN, personnel clerk, Elk City RD, promotion, Humboldt Toiyabe NF
 KLUEGEL, KURT, forestry technician recreation, Elk City RD, reassignment, Caribou-Targhee NF
 LEVER, ROBERT, forestry technician fire, Umpqua NF, promotion, Salmon River RD
 LOOMIS, GARY, forestry technician recreation, temporary promotion, Elk City RD
 PHILLIPS, SUE, support services specialist, temporary promotion, Clearwater RD
 RAFF, NATE, assistant helicopter manager, promotion, Grangeville Air Center
 SINES, BRIAN, forestry technician, Salmon River RD, promotion, Black Hills NF
 TALIAFERRO, DIANE, forester student career, Moose Creek RD, promotion, Gallatin NF
 WHITE, SYDNEY, computer program analyst, SO, promotion, Beaverhead Deerlodge NF



Jim Mershon Retires

Jeanne Spooner, public affairs specialist
Kootenai National Forest

On July 16, **Jim Mershon** retired from the Kootenai National Forest, forty years from the time he started as a summer employee on the Helena National Forest.

Jim served as the Cabinet District Ranger for the past 16 years. His career with the agency began in the summer of 1959 when he hired on as a summer employee for the Canyon Ferry Ranger District, Helena National Forest. After graduating from the University of Montana at Missoula in 1962, Jim continued at the Canyon Ferry Ranger District until he moved to the Nez Perce in 1967. In 1972 he transferred to the St. Joe National Forest at the Avery Ranger District and in 1975 accepted a position on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. A move back to the Helena as district ranger on the Lincoln Ranger District was followed in 1983 by Jim's acceptance of the ranger position at Trout Creek, Montana, on the Kootenai National Forest.

The River Journal, a newspaper published in Noxon, gave a fitting tribute to Jim Mershon and his 37 years of service. Editor Dennis Nicholls stated, "Jim Mershon has been a man of integrity in making the difficult decisions necessary to carry out his responsibilities to the people who have worked for him, the people for whom he has worked, and to the natural resources that have been under his care."

Jim and his wife Jan intend to remain at their home in Trout Creek between visits to their children and grandkids in Texas, California and Washington.

Gretchen & Scott Lentz go to Wisdom



Scott and Gretchen Lentz with daughter Rowan.

Gretchen Lentz, computer scientist with the RO information systems staff since 1991, is moving with her family to Wisdom, Montana. Her last day at the RO was July 30. She previously worked at the Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, from 1983-1991.

Her husband **Scott** accepted a fisheries biologist position at the Wisdom Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. For now, Gretchen says, "I'm going to take this opportunity to concentrate on my other full time job, motherhood, for awhile, especially since baby #2 is due in January." She and Scott have a 2 1/2-year old daughter Rowan.

Larry Froberg Retires

by Jeanne Spooner, public affairs specialist
Kootenai National Forest

Larry Froberg, district ranger on the Libby Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, retired July 3, 1999.

Larry's 35-year career with the Forest Service began on the Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest during the summer of 1961. After graduating from the University of Montana in 1966, Larry accepted a forestry position on the Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest. During his career, he also worked on the Beaverhead and Lewis and Clark National Forests, returning to the Kootenai in 1989 as ranger for the Fisher River Ranger District. In 1994 the Fisher River and Libby Ranger Districts were combined and Froberg accepted the district ranger position for the newly created Libby Ranger District where he continued working until his retirement.

For now, Larry intends to remain in Libby and pursue the leisure sports of golfing and sailing. With his three children living in Utah, Montana and California, his retirement plans also include visiting them and his grandchildren.

Jim Flannigan Retires

by Jeanne Spooner, public affairs specialist
Kootenai National Forest

Jim Flannigan, reforestation technician on the Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, retired July 3. Jim served 27 years with the Forest Service following a four-year stint in the U.S. Navy.

Jim began his Forest Service career on the Clearwater Ranger District, Nez Perce National Forest, in 1972. In 1977 he transferred to the Kootenai National Forest, working first on the old Yaak Ranger District and then continuing on at the newly created Three Rivers Ranger District until his retirement this year.

Jim and his wife Nan will continue to reside at their Moyie Springs home. To keep the moss from growing on their camper, they intend to visit their children in Seattle and Ogden and other friends throughout the country for their first retirement trip.

Mark Hill Arrives on Clearwater

Mark Hill transferred from the Ottawa National Forest in Region 9 in April to become the new Clearwater-Nez Perce zone forest archaeologist.

A native of Iowa, Mark is a veteran of 14 years with the Forest Service. He began his career as a contract archaeologist during the 1970's and '80's for the University of Iowa and Wichita State University. After completing his master's degree at Wichita State University, Mark worked for about a year for the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa.

Mark's first employment with the Forest Service was in 1985, when he was a temporary archaeological technician for the Custer National Forest. He secured a permanent position with the Custer one year later. The job covered the McKenzie, Sheyenne and Ashland ranger districts. In 1989, Mark accepted the forest archaeologist position on the Ottawa National Forest, on the south shore of Lake Superior.

Mark enjoys a number of outdoor activities such as biking, hiking and camping. After living in the "Big Snow Country" of the north woods where winter often brings 300 inches of snow and can last for seven months, Mark has become an avid cross-country skier.



Gordon Gregg

Gordon Gregg Heads for Alaska

by Fely Schaible, investigative assistant, IPNF

Special agent **Gordon Gregg** of the Law Enforcement & Investigations (LE&I), IPNF, recently transferred to Alaska as the regional special agent in charge (RSAC) for Region 10.

Gregg has worked many places in his 29-year career with the Forest Service. Positions include: fire control, Angeles National Forest; fire management and law enforcement, Redding, CA, 1970-1978; station foreman, Klamath National Forest; FPT, Los Padres National Forest; and FMO and law enforcement supervisor, Oregon Dunes NRA. From 1978-1987, Gregg served as deputy sheriff with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept., 1978-1987. During this period, he had four years with Special Enforcement Team (SWAT) and three years with the Special Investigations Bureau (narcotics, intelligence and vice).

Other Forest Service positions include: resident forest agent, Eldorado National Forest, 1994-1995; and supervisory special agent for the IPNF, 1996-1999.

A graduate of Ventura County Police/Sheriff's Academy and of California Dept. of Justice Narcotics Investigation Academy, Gregg holds two state POST certificates. He received the FBI meritorious award for Presidential Task Force, U.S. Marshal's Service Citation, and numerous law enforcement awards from the FBI, DEA and Sheriffs' departments.

Gregg and Teri, his wife of 29 years, have two daughters, Jenifer and Jill, and a son, Ryan.



Interns from Puerto Rico Discover Montana



Cherry Negrón, Glenda Agosto, Jose Estrella (left to right).

by Jolyn Wiggins, water team program assistant, and Sandy Kraville, wildlife biologist/water team, RO

The Regional Office recruited three excellent students from the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Internship Program for the summer. All of the students are college seniors. Jose Estrella is in computer science, Glenda Agosto, biology, and Cherry Negrón, environmental sciences and chemistry.

During their 10-week internship, Jose developed a webpage for the cooperative forestry and forest health protection staff. Glenda and Cherry were assigned to the WWFRP and assisted with a wide variety of work including the NatureWatch Program, Columbia River Basin related activities and a carnivore report. Cherry and Glenda also worked in other units at the RO, at the Fire Sciences Lab, the Montana Technology and Development Center and on the Bitterroot, Gallatin, Helena and Lolo National Forests. Part of their training was a week-long orientation program in Missoula with other trainees and students working in the Region.

For all three students, it was their first

trip to Montana. They expanded their knowledge of the State and its natural resources by exploring some of our national forests and national parks on weekends. They hiked to the top of St Mary's Peak on the Bitterroot National Forest and Sleeping Woman Mountain on the Lolo National Forest, spent a day in the snow on Lolo Pass and took a trip to Yellowstone National Park to see the sights. According to Glenda, they loved the hikes and snowball fights!

The HACU is a national association of institutions of higher education in the United States dedicated to bringing together colleges and universities, schools, corporations, governmental agencies and individuals to establish partnerships. Certainly the presence of Jose, Cherry and Glenda in Region One accomplished the purpose of the HACU intern program by enhancing their marketability for future employment and promoting workforce diversity in the Forest Service.

To learn more about HACU check out the website at <http://www.hacu.net/>

Northern Rockies Retirees Have Big Plans

by Jim Freeman, president
Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association

Forest service retirees living within our Northern Region are hard at work getting ready for the third national Forest Service reunion scheduled for the week following Labor Day 2000. It will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn-Parkside in Missoula.

Members of the Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association (NRMRA) have been lining up some outstanding entertainment and planning a number of tours and activities. Author/historian Stephen Ambrose will be the banquet speaker the



evening of September 5, 2000. Former Forest Service chiefs will gather in a panel discussion to discuss the past and the future with an open mike for floor participation. Several day-long bus tours are planned to visit historic Lewis and Clark sites and other scenic attractions.

NRMRA does need additional help from people to handle such jobs as tour guides, hosts and "greeters." If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Gary Morrison, RMLH&W director, at 406-329-3584.

Forest Service retirees, regardless of where they retired, as well as current employees, are welcome to join with NRMRA for this activity. Current employees who have ideas that might fit with the reunion theme "We Proceeded On..." an often repeated phrase in the journals of Lewis and Clark, please contact Gary Morrison.

We encourage retirees who do not now belong to NRMRA to join our ranks. Membership is only \$10 per year. Send your check and mailing address to: NRMRA, PO Box 20186, Missoula, MT 59801.

GOT A MINUTE?

Catching Up with Tom Kovalicky

by Laura Smith, public affairs assistant
Nez Perce National Forest

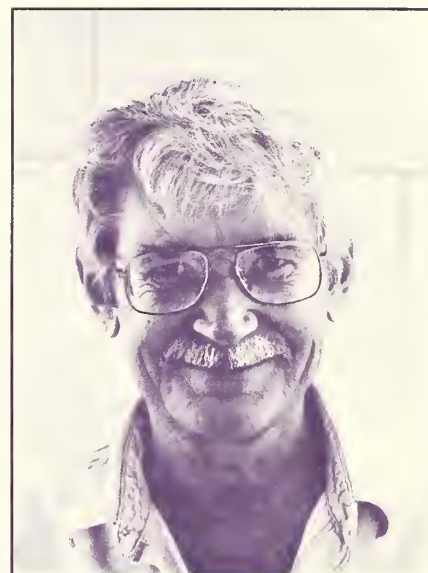
Tom, who retired December 31, 1990, as Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor, started his retirement on New Year's Day in true Kovalicky fashion—backpacking and quail hunting for 30 days in Arizona with his faithful companion Coho.

The following months were spent establishing himself as a natural resource consultant, specializing in wilderness stewardship. Tom said his most interesting days during that period were spent helping Anne Fege, Ed Bloedel, John Twiss and Connie Meyers get the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center up and running at the Ninemile Ranger Station. Tom is now a member of Zimmer and Associates of Boise, Idaho, who specialize in organizational effectiveness, team building and facilitation.

For the last four years, Tom has been president of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Wilderness Stewardship Working Group. They hosted the National Wilderness Stewardship Conference to increase the awareness among federal employees that wilderness is a resource, not a recreation opportunity.

Tom donates his time by serving on several boards, such as the National Smokejumper Association, the Idaho Outfitter & Guides Licensing Board and the non-profit group, the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation. The foundation established a visitor center and nature theme park in downtown Boise.

Yearning for yet more adventure, Tom spent time on the Komchatka Peninsula, Siberia Russia, pursuing steelhead, rainbow and salmon. "It's so pristine," Tom



Tom Kovalicky, retired Nez Perce NF Forest Supervisor (1982-1990). Photo taken 1996.

commented, "yet it is a living, rather than a legislated, wilderness." Then it was on to Belize, Costa Rica and Mexico to round out some great fishing trips for tarpon, bonefish, roosterfish, barracuda, etc.

Last, but certainly not least, Tom is the proud first-time grandpa of Jace Thomas Kovalicky, born October 31, 1998 to his son John and wife Debby. John is a smokejumper in Missoula.

IN MEMORIAM

Arthur Jukkala, 64, of Missoula, died of a heart attack July 12 while working on a volunteer trail crew in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Art was born in South Range, Michigan. He later moved to Missoula, MT, where he graduated with a bachelors and a masters degree in forestry from the University of Montana. He had 32 years of federal service, mostly with the Forest Service's Missoula Technology and Development Center. Art served as planner and later program leader for the Fire and Aviation Program. During this period, he was very instrumental in many technological advancements in this program, including fire shelters, hand tools, personal protective equipment and other fire related equipment as well as strong support for the smokejumper program including improved parachutes. He also worked as a smokejumper and was active with the National Smokejumper Association. During his career he was presented with a Federal Laboratory Consortium National Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer relating to the safety and health of wild land firefighters.

Art retired in 1990. He is survived by his wife Jeanene and his daughter Malia and son Clint.

J. Malcolm Greany, 84, died July 27 in Hood River, Oregon, of natural causes. He was employed for several years as the photographer for the Missoula Equipment and Development Center, then attached to Region One, for documenting MEDC's project work. (MEDC is now known as MTDC, the Missoula Technology and Development Center, and is managed by the WO.) He also completed regional photographic and cinematography assignments, such as coverage of forest fires. Malcolm, who came to MEDC from Anchorage around 1968, retired from the center in 1974.

Malcolm spent many of his young adult years in Alaska as a commercial photographer and as a photographer for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Fish and Game, and the Forest Service. He also served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Aleutians as a service photographer. Those years in Alaska earned him an international reputation for his photographic documentation of Alaskan history and wildlife. One of his close friends and professional colleagues was renown naturalist photographer Ansel Adams.

A Philadelphian by birth, Malcolm was raised in Detroit. Upon his retirement, Malcolm and his family moved to Hood River, Oregon, a place that for him conjured up memories of the Alaska landscape. He is survived by his wife Irene, sons Michael, Dennis and Patrick, and daughter Victoria.

Harvey O. Robe, 92, of Missoula, died April 2 of natural causes. Harvey was a native of Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada. Harvey served as assistant regional forester in charge of the division of operation for Region One from 1956 until his retirement in 1965.

Harvey first worked for the Forest Service in 1926 on the Cleveland National Forest in California as a fire control officer. Other positions: 1930-1935, assistant and district forest ranger, Arrowhead and Big Bear Ranger Districts, San Bernadino National Forest, CA; 1935-1938, assistant supervisor, Los Padres and Angeles National Forests, CA; administrative officer, divisions of personnel management and operation, RO, San Francisco; 1943-1945, chief of operation, Emergency Rubber Project; 1945-1947 assistant forest supervisor, Big Horn National Forest, WY; 1947-1949, forester, Rocky Mountain RO, division of operation and fire control, Denver; 1949-1953, forest supervisor, Gunnison National Forest, CO; 1953-1956, administrative officer, WO, division of operation.



Harvey O. Robe

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the R-1 Public and Governmental Relations office for employees and retirees. The following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Send text electronically, if possible.
- Focus on Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Text should not contain highly technical language.
- Be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or not of high interest level. Limit length to 1/2 to 3/4 page, single spaced.
- Photos should be of good quality and contrast. Either color or black and white is acceptable.
- Mail photos hard copy, or via e-mail (although quality is not always assured). If send by e-mail, please place in a TIFF file and scan no less image quality than 600 dpi.
- Mail articles to Gloria Weisgerber, NRN editor, FS computer address: gweisger/r1, mailing address: Forest Service, PO Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807.

If you wish help in drafting your article, feel free to contact
Gloria Weisgerber at 406-329-3094.

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Where in the world....

Can you identify the location of the photo below?

The ranger district?

Hint: Ob bury me not on the lone _____

